

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

WHO Global Pandemic Phases and the Stages for Federal Government Response

WHO Phases		Federal Government Response Stages	
INTER-PANDEMIC PERIOD			
1	No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. An influenza virus subtype that has caused human infection may be present in animals. If present in animals, the risk of human disease is considered to be low.	0	New domestic animal outbreak in at-risk country
2	No new influenza virus subtypes have been detected in humans. However, a circulating animal influenza virus subtype poses a substantial risk of human disease.		
PANDEMIC ALERT PERIOD			
3	Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact.	0	New domestic animal outbreak in at-risk country
		1	Suspected human outbreak overseas
4	Small cluster(s) with limited human-to-human transmission but spread is highly localized, suggesting that the virus is not well adapted to humans.	2	Confirmed human outbreak overseas
5	Larger cluster(s) but human-to-human spread still localized, suggesting that the virus is becoming increasingly better adapted to humans, but may not yet be fully transmissible (substantial pandemic risk).		
PANDEMIC PERIOD			
6	Pandemic phase: increased and sustained transmission in general population.	3	Widespread human outbreaks in multiple locations overseas
		4	First human case in North America
		5	Spread throughout United States
		6	Recovery and preparation for subsequent waves

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Stages of Federal Government Response

STAGE 0

New Domestic Animal Outbreak in At-Risk Country

GOALS

Provide coordination, support, technical guidance

Track outbreaks to resolution

Monitor for reoccurrence of disease

ACTIONS

Support coordinated international response

Prepare to deploy rapid response team and materiel

Offer technical assistance, encourage information sharing

POLICY DECISIONS

Deployment of countermeasures

WHO Phase 1 or 2
Inter-Pandemic Period

STAGE 1

Suspected Human Outbreak Overseas

GOALS

Rapidly investigate and confirm or refute

Coordination and logistical support

ACTIONS

Initiate dialogue with WHO

Deploy rapid response team

Amplify lab-based and clinical surveillance to region

Prepare to implement screening and/or travel restrictions from affected area

POLICY DECISIONS

Pre-positioning of U.S. contribution to international stockpile assets

Use of pre-pandemic vaccine

WHO Phase 3
Pandemic Alert Period

STAGE 2

Confirmed Human Outbreak Overseas

GOALS

Contain outbreak and limit potential for spread

Activate domestic medical response

ACTIONS

Declare Incident of National Significance

Support international deployment of countermeasures

Implement layered screening measures; activate domestic quarantine stations

Prepare to limit domestic ports of entry

Prepare to produce monovalent vaccine

POLICY DECISIONS

Contribution to countermeasures for affected region

Entry/exit screening criteria; isolation/quarantine protocols

Diversion of trivalent vaccine production to monovalent

Revise prioritization and allocation of pandemic vaccine and antiviral medications

WHO Phase 4 or 5
Pandemic Alert Period

STAGE 3

Widespread Outbreaks Overseas

GOALS

Delay emergence
in North America

Ensure earliest
warning of first case(s)

Prepare domestic containment
and response mechanisms

ACTIONS

Activate domestic emergency
medical personnel plans

Maintain layered screening
measures at borders

Deploy pre-pandemic vaccine
and antiviral stockpiles; divert to
monovalent vaccine production

Real-time modeling; heighten
hospital-based surveillance

Prepare to implement surge plans
at Federal medical facilities

POLICY DECISIONS

Prioritize efforts for domestic
preparedness and response

STAGE 4

First Human Case in North America

GOALS

Contain first cases in
North America

Antiviral treatment
and prophylaxis

Implement national response

ACTIONS

Ensure pandemic plans
activated across all levels

Limit non-essential
domestic travel

Deploy diagnostic
reagents for pandemic
virus to all laboratories

Continue development of
pandemic vaccine

Antiviral treatment and targeted
antiviral prophylaxis

POLICY DECISIONS

Revision of prioritization
and allocation scheme for
pandemic vaccine

STAGE 5

Spread throughout United States

GOALS

Support community response

Preserve critical infrastructure

Mitigate illness, suffering,
and death

Mitigate impact to economy
and society

ACTIONS

Maintain overall
situational awareness

Evaluate epidemiology;
provide guidance on
community measures

Deploy vaccine if available;
prioritization guidance

Sustain critical infrastructure,
support health and medical
systems, maintain civil order

Provide guidance on use of
key commodities

POLICY DECISIONS

Federal support of critical
infrastructure and availability of
key goods and services

Lifting of travel restrictions

WHO Phase 6 Pandemic Period